Message Text

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SUBJ: DANISH REACTION TO EXPULSION OF EAST GERMAN SPINGER BIERMANN

SUMMARY: THE DANISH PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED PUBLIC DISAPPROVAL OF THE GDR ACTION AGAINST WOLF BIERMANN. PARLIAMENTARIANS, INCLUDING LEADERS OF SOCIALIST PEOPLES PARTY (NATIONAL COMMUNIST), HAVE WRITTEN A PROTEST LETTER TO THE EAST GERMAN AMBASSADOR IN COPENHAGEN. END SUMMARY.

- 1. DANISH PUBLIC OPINION HAS BEEN CONDEMNATORY OF THE EAST GERMAN STATE'S BANISHMENT OF BIERMANN. PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN ON DECEMBER 7 RESPONDED TO JOURNALISTS' QUESTIONS WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT: "IN THIS COUNTRY, WE OPPOSE BUILDING UP SYSTEMS WHICH AFFECT CITIZENS' RIGHT TO WORK BECAUSE OF THEIR DIFFERING POLITICAL VIEWS. AND WE CERTAINLY WOULD NOT EXPEL PEOPLE WHO ATTACK OUR OWN POLITICAL SYSTEM THROUGH THEIR ART."
- 2. IN A DECEMBER 15 LETTER ADDRESSED TO THE EAST GERMAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AMBASSADOR TO DENMARK, SIX SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, ONE LIBERAL AND TWO SOCIALIST PEOPLES PARTY MEMBERS OF THE FOLKETING PROTESTED THE EAST GERMAN TREATMENT OF BIERMANN AND PROFESSOR ROBERT HAVEMANN. THE LETTER STATED THAT THE SIGNERS, BECAUSE OF THEIR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN WINNING RECOGNITION FOR THE GDR AS AN INDEPENDENT STATE, FELT

PARTICULARLY AFFECTED BY THE EAST GERMAN ACTION. THEY ASKED THE EAST GERMAN AMBASSADOR TO PASS THEIR PROTEST ON TO HIS AUTHORITIES. THE FOLKETING MEMBERS SAID THAT THEY FELT THE GDR OUGHT TO BE SUFFICIENTLY MAGNANIMOUS TO MEET ITS CRITICS WITH ARGUMENTS AND NOT WITH REGULATIONS SUCH AS THOSE WHICH WERE APPLIED TO BIERMANN AND HAVEMANN.

- 3. CULTURE MINISTER NIELS MATTHIASEN, IN RESPONSE TO A LETTER FROM SOCIALIST PEOPLES PARTY FOLKETING MEMBER KURT BRAUER REQUESTING DANISH CITIZENSHIP FOR BIERMANN, SAID THAT BIERMANN WAS WELCOME IN DENMARK BUT THE QUESTION AS TO WHETHER HE OUGHT TO BE OFFERED CITIZENSHIP IMMEDIATELY WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED FURTHER.
- 4. COMMENT: WE NOTE WITH INTEREST THE DISAPPROVAL OF THE NATIONAL COMMUNIST LEADERS PETERSEN AND BRAUER TO THE GDR ACTION. THE DANES MAY WELL EXPECT THE GDR TREATMENT OF BIERMANN AND HAVEMANN TO BE CITED BY WESTERN PARTICIPANTS AT THE BELGRADE CSCE FOLLOW-UP AS CONTRARY TO THE SPIRIT OF THE HELSINKI AGREMENT. DEAN

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